Hooghly Estuary involves capital dredging, measures to improve flood flow conditions, construction of shore disposal terminal and trimming of Nayachara Island.

(b) and (c) Calcutta Port Trust has terminated the contract of the Dutch contractor and has initiated legal action in the Calcutta High Court to encash the Bank Guarantees furnished by the Contractor.

महिला कैदियों का शोषण

*219. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में कुल कितनी महिलाएं जेलों में बन्द हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार को पुलिस और जेल के अधिकारियों द्वारा इन महिला कैदियों का शारीरिक शोषण किए जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त) : (क) देश में महिला कैदियों की कुल संख्या 31.12.1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार 6285 है।

(ख) और (ग) चूंकि "जेल" राज्य का विषय है, इसलिए यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है कि वे जेल प्रशासन से संबंधित किसी भी मामले को सुसंगत नियमों, विनियमों तथा जेल मैन्यूल के उपबंधों के अनुसार निपटाएं। भारत सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त कोई भी शिकायत उचित कार्रवाई हेतु राज्य सरकारों को भेज दी जाती है। इस मंत्रालय में उल्लिखित प्रकार की कोई भी विशिष्ट शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

Discussion on Uttarakhand Issue

*220. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH :
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government recently have held discussions with the leaders of parties and protagonists of Uttarakhand on the issue of creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand ;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with political leaders and protagonists of Uttarakhand on various demands made by them which include, *inter alia*, creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand. Based on these discussions, the Government is examining various alternatives for arriving at an acceptable solution.

Reviewing India's Nuclear Policy

1034. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the National Herald dated the 2nd April, 1996, exposing the secret history of extensive Chinese-Pakistani nuclear collaboration and revealing that Pakistan was in a position to make plutonium to manufacture nuclear bomb within a short time; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the nuclear policy to match with Pak-nuclear advancement towards nuclear weapons; in the conext of security perceptions in the region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The security situation of India is constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with and threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Development of Agni and Prithvi Missiles

1035. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether reported deloyment of nuclear Chinese M-11 missiles by Pakistan on the border, has increased the threat to security of the country;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view of this, Government have decided to speed up the development of Agni and Prithvi missiles;